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Akin Opposes Funding of Controversial Embryonic Stem Cell Research Calls for ethical, effective stem cell research

WASHINGTON- Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), a member of the House Science Committee, today renewed his support for ethical stem cell research and voted against HR 3, which would increase federal funding for controversial embryonic stem cell research.

"I remain opposed to increasing federal funding for research that necessitates the destruction of a human embryo," said Akin. "Embryos are persons at an early stage of development, and deserve the protection of law."

Currently, the Federal Government funds 140 million dollars annually for research using stem cell lines created prior to 2001. Also, there is no prohibition against private funding of such research.

"Given the controversial nature of embryonic stem cell research, I do not believe it is proper candidate for further federal funding," said Akin. "As a member of the Science Committee I have and will continue to support funding for non-controversial and more promising adult stem cell research."